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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/070,633	03/04/2002	Joanne Elizabeth Anderson	PU3703USW	9460

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EXAMINER

SHIBUYA, MARK LANCE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1639

DATE MAILED: 08/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/070,633	Applicant(s) ANDERSON ET AL.	
	Examiner Mark L. Shibuya	Art Unit 1639	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 July 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-39 are pending.

Election/Restrictions

2. Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-13, drawn to a method for monitoring a solid phase chemical reaction comprising providing a reaction mixture comprising a solid support and a liquid reaction medium, contacting an attenuated total reflection (ATR) element to said reaction mixture, directly monitoring said reaction through said ATR element through ATR spectroscopy.

Group II, claim(s) 14-21, drawn to an apparatus for generating a solid phase combinatorial library comprising a chemical synthesis robot, a reagent repository, an attenuated total reflection element, and a synthesis controller.

Group III, claim(s) 22-32, drawn to a method of making a combinatorial library by solid phase chemical synthesis comprising ATR spectroscopy.

Group IV, claim(s) 33-39, drawn to a method making a combinatorial library, the improvement comprising completing all sequential reaction cycles in a total time that averages from 1 to 8 hours for each of the sequential reaction cycles.

The inventions listed as Groups I-IV do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

The technical feature linking groups I-III appears to be that they all relate to methods for monitoring a solid phase chemical reaction using ATR spectroscopy. The technical feature linking groups II-IV appears to be that they all relate to methods for making combinatorial libraries.

However, in regards to Groups I-IV, Eipel et al., US 6,737,024, effective date Jan. 14, 1999, at col. 1, lines 47-56, col. 2, lines 28-67, Fig. 2, col. 3, lines 46-55 and 65, col. 4,

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lines 11-16, 37-59, col. 5, lines 5-10 and 31-37, teach methods of combinatorial chemistry using automated solid-phase synthesis, including separate discrete solid supports, where the support may be glass, quartz, silicon, germanium, or polystyrene, wherein the automated systems include metering devices for dispensing liquid, taken to read on a chemical synthesis robot and wherein attenuated total reflection is used to measure light absorption. In regards to Group IV, Hollinshead, US 5,942,387, (IDS filed 3/4/02, ref. no. 6), at col. 19, line 34-col.20, line 33 and Hindsgaul, US 5,780, 603, (IDS filed 3/4/02, ref. no. 4), at col. 2, line 55-line 67, col. 11, line 65-col. 12, line 33, col. 16, line 46-col. 18, line 20, teach reaction times of reaction cycles used in the synthesis of combinatorial libraries that fall within the claimed range. Thus the prior art teaches the technical features linking the groups and claims.

Accordingly, Groups I-IV are not so linked by the same or corresponding special technical feature to as to form a single general inventive concept.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark L. Shibuya whose telephone number is (571) 272-0806. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Wang can be reached on (571) 272-0811. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mark L. Shibuya
Examiner
Art Unit 1639


PADMASHRI PONNALURI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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